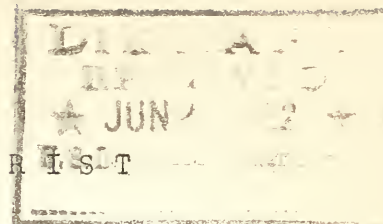


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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

June 1, 1922.



*
* Latest reports upon frost injury to the fruit
* crop are more encouraging and while they show consider-
* able damage in many localities, the prospects are good
* for a fairly abundant supply of most fruits. In the
* states reported on in the "Extension Horticulturist"
* last month the injury is not quite as great as indicated
* at that time.
*

*
* In our last number we asked the extension men to
* report on fruit conditions as of May 20. Instead of a
* large number we received reports from a comparatively
* few, including the following: Colorado, - Fruit crop
* promising in important districts, some frost damage else-
* where. Oklahoma, - Tree fruits about half a crop, grapes
* and berries nearly full crop. Kentucky, - About three-
* fourths crop of all fruits. Arkansas, - Fair crop, except
* in southwestern part of state where there is about one-
* half of a peach crop.
*

Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations
and States Relations Service Cooperating,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Fruit Report from New Jersey.

A most comprehensive report has been received from Fruit Specialist A. F. Mason and we call especial attention to what he says about countywide project committees as follows:

"The value of the countywide project committees in developing the program of work has been fully demonstrated in New Jersey. Starting with the county committees two years ago, we now have committees in all but one of our 18 agented counties, while one unagented county has a local committee to help us with our work in one section. The effect of these committees has been pronounced as evidenced in several ways:

- (a) There is a greater interest in the fruit work as a result of the activities of the committees, because the work is established in answer to definite requests from the communities themselves.
- (b) Work has been started in sections of counties which hitherto had been neglected.
- (c) A wider variety of work has been undertaken.
- (d) More comprehensive programs have been prepared for practically every county.
- (e) The position of the county agent has been greatly strengthened through having the backing of a committee of well known men to assist in the outlining of the demonstration work.

"We have quite a complete program for this season, as can be seen from the summarized table in the next paragraph. These demonstrations were all asked for by the project committees, and the locations arranged by the county agents and committeemen.

Pruning, - General demonstrations 89
Pruning, - Long time demonstrations 23
Spraying, - apple 9, peach 3, cherry 2, grape 1,
gooseberry 1, peach dusting 1, comparison
of materials 1.
Disease and insect control, - peach borer 54, pear
psylla 2, strawberry weevil 4, yellows and little
peach identification 4.
Demonstrations, - apple orchards 24, peach orchards 4,
plum orchard 1, cover crops 10, small fruit varieties 8.
Miscellaneous, - fruit growers organizations 4, fruit
growers school 1, grafting 5, rodent control 1, blasting
vs. digging holes 1, grading and packing 1, fertilizer
1, cooperative purchasing of supplies 1.
Campaigns on power sprayers, thinning fruit, and pruning
and fertilizing 3.

"In New Jersey the renovation of the old farm orchard is one of the major projects, and one which has justified itself by its results time and time over. Even when the trees are quite far gone, with much dead wood and

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hollow limbs, it frequently can be brought into fruitful condition for a sufficient length of time to make it a financial advantage to the farmer. Of course, the excellent local markets in New Jersey furnish an unfailing outlet for fruit from such orchards, where there would be no demand for such fruit in more isolated sections.

"Milton Gibbs lives near Hope in Warren County. He has 91 large old apple trees, which had just "stood" for a number of years without much attention. Inasmuch as there are hundreds of similar orchards in Warren County, Mr. Gibbs' orchard was taken as a demonstration, and was pruned, sprayed and fertilized in accordance with the recommendations of the Extension Department. It returned a net profit of \$1,334.90 the first year, and \$653.38 the second year. It is the most valued piece of land on the Gibbs' farm at the present time.

"James Black lives at Hainesville, in Sussex County. He has about 150 trees, typical of the farm apple orchard of the community. Seventy-two trees were cared for by Mr. Black under the direction of the Extension Department. The first year over \$1500.00 worth of apples were sold, with a net return of a little over \$1200.00, while the second year a net profit of \$556.95 was made from the same trees.

"Charles Roy lives at Fredon, New Jersey. He has 60 old trees, which before 1919 had never been pruned or sprayed. He cared for them under the direction of the Extension Department, and the first year made a net profit of \$400.50, and the second year a net profit of \$412.29.

"In speaking of "net profit" we mean the income left after all deductions have been made for men and team labor, spray materials, fertilizer, marketing and all other expenses.

"To sum up, it might be said that where there are local markets, or where supplies of fruit are short, the farm orchard is of great value to the farm. In those states, time devoted to the phase of the project dealing with the home orchard is well spent, and entirely justifiable. New Jersey is one of those states."

Among Extension Horticulturists.

In response to our comments in the last number of the "Extension Horticulturist" upon the distribution of the specialists' time, Mr. C. Woolsey, Extension Horticulturist of Arkansas has sent us the following interesting report:

"The "Extension Horticulturist," May 1, 1922, received, and contents noted. I have read carefully the paragraph in regard to the number of days which Horticultural Specialists can spend in the field. This matter is a difficult one to solve, as conditions in different states will cause variations. The conditions in Arkansas are quite peculiar, in that the County Agent considers the Specialist in Horticulture primarily as an instructor for him. This view is well taken, but in a great many cases handicaps the Horticulturist in broadening his work. Nevertheless, we have been very very successful in putting across certain things in this State. I believe

that no rule can be made stating how many days that a horticultural specialist can spend in the field and office. Nevertheless, I believe that one should not be judged by the number of days in the field or office but by the work done. It is an easy matter to spend most of the time on the train and in the field and yet accomplish nothing.

Well organized plans properly carried out should also be constructed and handled so as to put all forces possible in the State to work. If the specialist is able to organize his county agent and his other forces, both industrial and educational in the State so that all will assist in bringing about a certain change, I see no reason why he should spend more than three weeks out of each month in the field. Most county agents desire to be in the office on Saturday, so this will give us four days per month regularly in the office, unless some unforeseen trip arises. Furthermore, I believe that a state specialist should read all bulletins, articles and magazines published on horticulture and the allied sciences. I also believe that he should spend some time in reading the current news on marketing, imports and exports, and the general political trend of the country, as some of his problems in the field may be greatly influenced by the present political situation, although he need not express himself politically.

Our fruit conditions are fairly good at the date of this writing. The strawberry crop is heavy throughout the State, although spring rains in certain sections have caused some rotting. Prices for the early shipments have been low. Retail berries are selling in Little Rock at two quarts for 25 cents. The berry crop in northwest sections is very heavy. Springdale alone is advertising for 5000 pickers. New plantings over the State are coming in this year with a heavy crop.

The cherry crop in the northwest part of the State is light to medium, due probably to the heavy rains during the blooming period. Peaches are heavy throughout most of the State, although the big Johnson orchard at Highland is reported to have only 50% of a crop. Northwest Arkansas peaches have a heavy crop. Apples are spotted in crop. Ben Davis shows a very light crop in most orchards, although orchards where summer spraying was given last year are showing a full crop. A full crop of Jonathan, Winesaps and Grimes Golden is set at this writing. Grapes are in good condition, with heavy bloom. Huckleberry crop in the woods heavy. Blackberry bloom heavy at this writing. Plums heavy crop. Foliage and growth of fruiting trees very heavy.

We have started a spray information ring, including Boone, Benton, Carroll and Washington Counties in northwest Arkansas. We organized the growers into groups, each group receives the information over telephone. The Experiment Station determines the completion date of each spray. They straightway carry the information to my office. From my office it is 'phoned to each county agent in the counties named. Each county agent in turn 'phones his group leaders in the various parts of the county. A group leader usually handles one rural telephone line. The group leaders 'phone a number of men whom he has listed. In this way the information is very carefully spread to the four counties named. We likewise put out a code which gives full and special directions for spraying. We sent each of the men on the lists one of these codes. The code does not give the date as this is received from the Experiment Station, depending on the emergence

of codling moth and other factors. The first cover spray was the first one sent out by telephone, the date of the other two sprays being fairly well established. On April 25 at 2:00 o'clock P. M. the information was sent out. At 4:00 o'clock it was all over the four counties. I was in the field soon after the information was sent out and everybody seemed to be well pleased. Our information sent over the field was to have growers to complete their first cover spray by May 7. I am enclosing a copy of the spray code directions for telephone service."

Extension Work in Horticulture in Vermont.

The extension work in horticulture for the period embraced, December 1920 to November 3, 1921, included several field trips in cooperation with the county agricultural agents.

In all cases the work was conducted in cooperation with the county agent, with the idea of assisting in special problems of fruit or potato culture. So far as possible, the problems considered were type cases and were before groups of men rather than individuals. By thus selecting the type cases it was thought that such work in addition to its value to the farmers in attendance would make the county agent more resourceful in dealing with similar cases elsewhere.

The extension work was centered mostly in the problem of better care of potato fields and orchard trees. Pruning and spraying were the leading aspects of orchard culture and renovation work.

In addition to the field work thus briefed, there has been a flow of letters of inquiry on almost every feature of horticultural endeavor such as noxious insects, injurious diseases, varieties to plant, soil culture, fertilizer problems, identification of fruits, weeds and grasses; sprays and spraying, etc. in great diversity.

Spray Rings being Organized in Indiana. From recent Reports of County Agents.

"A spray ring was organized in Columbia and Union Townships in Whitley County, Indiana, the purpose of which is to buy a power sprayer for the use of the respective members in their orchards. A man was hired to run the outfit and go from place to place, putting on sprays at the proper time. The shares in the outfit were sold at the rate of \$10 for each 20 medium sized trees. The cost of the spray material and the operating will be pro-rated according to the number of dilute gallons of spray material used by the members of the ring. In this way the spraying will be done at the proper time and with much less cost to each member.

In Highland Township, Vermillion County, Indiana, an orchard spray ring has been formed with a membership of fourteen, involving 545 trees. An assessment of \$1.00 per tree has been made to cover the cost of equipment and material. A local man has been hired to do all the work on a basis of 40¢ an hour and each member is charged for the actual cost of material used."

On April 1, Mr. H. R. Niswonger left his position as Extension Pomologist with the Kentucky Experiment Station to become manager of the extensive orchards of Dr. W. A. Quinn, near Henderson, Kentucky. Mr. Niswonger has been with the Kentucky Station for a period of eight or ten years, first with the Department of Entomology and later in Horticulture. The best wishes of the entire Station staff go with him in his new enterprise.

On May 15, Prof. W. S. Brock of Illinois, called at the office. He stated that his principal lines of work this spring have been organizing spray rings and county horticultural committees. About 35 spray rings are in operation. The general plan is for each ring to purchase a power outfit and hire a man to run it. The county horticultural committee helps the county agent and state specialists in planning and carrying out the fruit work of the county. Prof. Brock reports the best kind of cooperation and results from these committees. There are half a dozen functioning now and it is hoped there will be 25 or 30 by fall.

Strawberry Club Manual.

The University of Illinois has recently issued a bulletin entitled "Strawberry Club Manual," written by Prof. A. S. Colby. Full directions are given for the different phases of strawberry culture, but they are on too broad a scope for most club members. Some phases are discussed on the acre basis and Bordeaux mixture on a fifty gallon basis. For junior club work this subject should be so presented that a boy or girl with only two or three dozen strawberry plants will understand just what to do and how much fertilizer or spray mixture to provide for at each application.

Fruit Growers' Trips

Arrangements are being made by County Agent Ernest Carnes and Mr. A. E. Schilleter, Extension Specialist of South Carolina, for a tour of Spartanburg County fruit growers to the peach section of Georgia during the early part of the shipping season. The trip will be made by auto and a large number of orchards and shipping points in Georgia visited. According to reports western South Carolina, also the Sandhill section of South Carolina and North Carolina have an abundant crop of peaches this year. This makes about 10 successive years that the Sandhill section has had a peach crop.

Prof. C. P. Close of this Office expects to leave Washington July 1 on a trip to the States of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. He will study the methods of attack and the lines of extension work conducted by the fruit, vegetable and landscape specialists in those states and visit as many of the demonstrations as possible.

Mr. W. R. Beattie leaves May 31 to visit the watermelon producing sections of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. The purpose of this trip is to study the most approved methods of growing melons and to secure photographs to be used as illustrations in the Farmers' Bulletin on growing watermelons.

OHIO APPLE TREE CENSUS BY DISTRICTS.

Bearing Trees.

| | 1910 | 1920 | Decrease |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Lake Erie District 9 counties | 798,230 | 580,341 | 28% |
| Southern Ohio Rome Beauty District 8 counties | 1,301,453 ^a | 1,240,222 ^a | 5% |
| Cincinnati District 2 counties | 192,542 ^a | 175,199 | 10% |
| Pittsburgh & Wheeling District, 7 counties | 910,039 | 647,801 | 29% |
| Columbus District 4 counties | 398,870 | 291,562 ^a | 27% |
| General Farming District 58 counties | 4,406,045 ^a | 3,036,165 | 32% |

Non-Bearing Trees.

| | 1920 | Proportion non- bearing trees to total 1920 |
|---|----------------------|---|
| Lake Erie District 9 counties | 450,221 | 36% |
| Southern Ohio Rome Beauty District 8 counties | 686,586 | 35% |
| Cincinnati District 2 counties | 55,734 | 24% |
| Pittsburgh & Wheeling District, 7 counties | 225,452 ^a | 25% |
| Columbus District 4 counties | 102,016 | 26% |
| General Farming District, 58 counties | 638,658 | 17% |

The above apple tree census of the State of Ohio by districts was prepared by Mr. F. H. Beach, Fruit Specialist. It is reproduced in order to pass the idea to workers in other states with the suggestion that this is a good line of information for each specialist to have for his own state.

W. R. Beattie,
Extension Horticulturist.
C. P. Close,
Extension Pomologist.

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